

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 04187 241410Z

73

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /091 W

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R 241005Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9171

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: CALL ON PRIME MINISTER, MAY 23: NO. 5 -  
GENERAL POLITICAL DISCUSSION

1. AT THE END OF MY CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON MAY 23, HE ASKED WHAT WAS GOING ON IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. I GAVE HIM A RUNDOWN OF RECENT EVENTS. HE COMMENTED THAT HE DID NOT ENVY JOHN DEAN'S JOB IN PHNOM PENH, AND AS REGARDS CAMBODIA HE THOUGHT THAT LON NOL MIGHT BE A HANDICAP TO ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION. HE THOUGHT THAT THERE WERE VALID THIRD FORCE PERSONALITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND ABROAD WHICH COULD USEFULLY BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY. THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE, FOR INSTANCE, VU VAN MAU, WHO IF THEY WERE BROUGHT INTO THE CABINET MIGHT SERVE AS INTERMEDIARIES WITH THE PRG AND SIGNAL A WILLINGNESS BY THE GVN TO ADOPT A MODERATE POLICY. HE THOUGHT THIEU TOOK TOO RIGID A POSITION AND WAS MISGUIDED IN RELYING SOLELY ON MILITARY MEANS.

2. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN WITH THE SITUATION IN BOTH COUNTRIES BUT PARTICULARLY THE ONE IN VIETNAM. HE FEARED THAT IF THE WAR FLARED UP AGIN THERE IT WOULD HAVE POSSIBLE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR LAOS.

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 04187 241410Z

3. I DID NOT ARGUE WITH SOUVANNA AS I HAVE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS AS HE HAD A TOOTHACHE AND WAS AS CROSS AS A BEAR WITH CUBS. I NOTED THAT THIEU HAD USED QTE REASONABLE UNQTE PEOPLE LIKE DR. TRAN VAN DO IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THEY HAD FOUND THE OTHER SIDE INTRANSIGENT. I ALSO OBSERVED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO AVOID MILITARY MEANS WHEN NVA SOLDIERS AND TANKS WERE ATTACKING SVN POSITIONS NEAR THE IRON TRIANGLE.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974VIENTI04187  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740131-0019  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** CALL ON PRIME MINISTER, MAY 23: NO. 5 - GENERAL POLITICAL DISCUSSION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, LA, VN, CB, (SOUVANNA PHOUMI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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